

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT
Agricultural Education
Career and Technical Education Division

July 21, 2003

With the recent emphasis on career clusters and skill standards testing, within the Kentucky Department of Education, it is proposed that the universities offering degrees in agriculture articulate college level credit for students who have obtained a career major with at least B grades and who pass the appropriate skills standard test in the related area.

(i.e.) Students with a Career Major in Horticulture (or a minimum of 3 credits in recommended courses in Horticulture) with a grade of at least a B in each class **and** passing the Horticulture skills standard test will receive 3 credits in a general elective in a Horticulture class at the collegiate level.

Career Clusters/Majors

To complete a career major, students must earn four career-related credits within the career major. Three of the four credits must come from the recommended courses for that major.

Program Sequence for Skill Standards

Students should complete a coherent sequence of courses from the secondary Agriculture Education curriculum. The sequences are developed by Career Major and include Agribusiness, Horticulture, Production, Agricultural Mechanics/Engineering, and Forestry/Resource Management. Courses under each major must also be in the Kentucky Program of Studies.

Proposal

It is proposed that each university would identify college level electives that the students could register for and receive credit during their first year of enrollment in College. This process could work much like the process that we are currently using with the AP Animal Science, Plant Science, Wildlife Management and Agricultural Economics Classes.

It is proposed that each university would be responsible for developing their own course numbers, although it is suggested that they be numbered similarly:

- (i.e) AGR 180 – Skill Development in Horticulture (3 hours)
 AGR 181 – Skill Development in Agriculture Production -Animals and/or Plants (3 hours)

Students would be eligible for credit in the appropriate elective class (Horticulture for the Horticulture Career Major and Horticulture Skill Standards Test; Agriculture Production for the Production Agriculture Career Major and Agriculture Production- Animals or Plants Skill Standards Test) upon receiving documentation from the local school district and upon proper enrollment in the respective universities. Students who complete both Career Majors and successfully pass both Skill Standards Tests could earn credit for both elective classes (6 hours). A student could earn **no more than 6 hours** of elective credit as a result of this process. Grading would be granted on a Credit/No Credit (Pass/Fail) basis.

Process

Course syllabi for each of the elective classes will be presented to each respective university Academic Council for approval and listing in the respective catalogs. These classes will be offered in the course offerings by each institution during the fall semester of each academic year.

The Department of Education Agricultural Education State Staff will monitor the process of awarding the skill standard certificates. Each of the students will be issued a letter from the local school district certifying that the student should receive credit along with an explanation of the process required to gain credit. This letter will be presented to the appropriate personnel at the respective institutions during the first year of enrollment and the student will be registered into the appropriate class(es) and credit will be given at the conclusion of the semester.

Potential Outcomes of the Articulation Proposal

- A. Secondary Agricultural Education Students
 - 1) Allows Secondary Agricultural Education Students to become trained in a specific set of skill standards developed by industry representatives and Kentucky Department of Education personnel thereby putting a stamp of approval on their training.
 - 2) Allows Secondary Agricultural Education Students to get a head start in pursuing an advanced degree in one of the fields in Agriculture.

- 3) Provides motivation for students to pursue a Career Major.
- 4) Provides motivation and incentive for students to try of excel in the Skills Standard Testing Process

B. Secondary Agricultural Education Programs

- 1) Allows secondary agricultural education programs to promote the articulation with students and administrators and help with recruiting of quality students.
- 2) Provides a mechanism for Secondary Teachers to be in contact with University Professors and Kentucky Department of Education Personnel.
- 3) Successful Passing Rates of Students could be used in Program Promotion and in recruiting a more talented, non-traditional, and/or diverse student population.

C. Kentucky Department of Education

- 1) Provides a mechanism for the Kentucky Department of Education to put significant emphasis on the recent thrusts of Career Majors and Skill Standards Assessment.
- 2) Provides an opportunity to motivate students to do better on the skill standards assessment, thereby increasing the passing rates and consequently increasing the learning of students and the quality of the instruction in secondary agricultural education

Universities offering Agriculture Degrees

- 1) Allows for a closer working relationship between University Agriculture programs and Secondary Agricultural Education programs.
- 2) Provides motivation for more and better students to be attracted to pursue degrees in agriculture.
- 3) Provides a significant bridge and motivation for a successful transition for students between the secondary agricultural education programs and Higher Education.